

- 6 -

REMARKS

This response is to the Office Letter mailed in the above-referenced case on January 02, 2004. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination. The Examiner rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burson et al. (US 6,4058,245) hereinafter Burson.

The applicant has carefully noted and reviewed the Examiner's rejection, reference and comments. Applicant herein amends the claims to more particularly point out the subject matter regarded as patentable by applicant and argues the patentability of the claims, as amended, over the prior art provided by the Examiner, as the reference clearly fails to support the 103(a) rejection presented by the Examiner. Claim 13 is herein amended to correct faulty language. Claims 17-20 are currently added.

Applicant adds claims 17-20 to fully incorporate true automation to a degree not taught or disclosed in the art of Burson. Applicant herein amended the independent claims to further limit the software bundle to operate solely on machine-readable instruction. Applicant argues that only in this manner can a browser navigation sequence accomplish full automation. Burson must prompt the user for input to facilitate the navigation sequence (col. 6, lines 18-20).

The Examiner states that Burson teaches a browser application for navigating on the network and a set of functional programs for performing tasks. The Examiner further interprets Burson to include API's, although the API's are not for integration purposes. The Examiner states it would have been obvious to use an API in the art of Burson to allow an application such a browser to operate in conjunction with separate processing components.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation

- 7 -

of Burson. Firstly, applicant does not believe the "processing components" of Burson can read on the functional programs of applicant's invention. Applicant clearly discloses that functional programs are java-based programs initiated and integrated by the API's. Burson describes 4 primary processing components as a Baseline configure component 320, the end-user configure component 330, Pi access/transact component 340 and the PI delivery component 350. Burson describes these components as being manually configured and operating on trial & error, etc.

Applicant argues that the unique way API's integrate functional modules, as claimed, by searching, data parsing, Web data tree detection etc. enable a true automated process at unfamiliar Web sites without user intervention.

A data structure tree defines how data is displayed on a WEB page in HTML format. An application program interface (API), which is part of the normal browser function understands the HTML data structure used in the construction of a WEB page, which is available at the source. Therefore, a specific structure tree is captured by browser module 145 every time an associated WEB page is displayed in application window 139. User-highlighted portions of a WEB page define "portions" of the overall data structure tree of that page. Therefore, the output of layer 141 comprises an entire data structure tree for a WEB page, a highlighted portion of that data structure, and a description of the type of human-readable data to be extracted from that portion of the tree.

Each API described in applicant's specification is categorized according to function with each controlling a plurality of Java-based functions, which may be thought of as extensions to browser application 306. For example, a statistic collection API 309 is provided within browser 306 and adapted to provide automation for programs designed to return statistical information for the purpose of monitoring, timing of operations, and other like functions.

- 8 -

Search API 311 is provided within browser 306 and adapted to provide automation to functional programs that perform a variety of search operations such as obtaining a data-structure tree of a particular web page, often referred to as a document object model (DOM). Other operations include searching for specific patterns on a web page, searching for an image in a web page, searching for tables containing text as a row or cell element, and so on.

Utility API 315 of applicant's invention, is provided within browser 306 and adapted to provide automation to functional programs that perform duties such as parsing date functions displayed in numerous formats and returning such functions according to an ordered format, parsing money functions displayed in numerous formats and returning such functions according to an ordered format. API 315 also provides automation to various encryption and decryption utilities. An error-recovery API 317 is provided within browser 306 and adapted to provide automation to a variety of programs designed to recover errors or tolerate faults. For example, one such program monitors the loading time of a web page and adjusts a timeout interval if necessary. Also, error recovery programs are provided for such as retrying auto login and other navigation functions if the failure is a first result of a code first attempt.

Applicant argues that the PI provider Web sites, as disclosed in Burson , are manually configured wherein templates and PIC files are stored for each provider. Applicant argues that Burson teaches away from the API's as disclosed and claimed in applicant's invention because the functions of applicant's API's are not needed in Burson. Burson suggests the providers in the system are also subscribers (Fig. 8).

Applicant argues the main goal of the present invention is to provide a fully functional and truly automated navigation system that may be spawned and executed to completion based on machine-readable instruction. Burson fails to teach or suggest the advanced automated

- 9 -

browsing and data collection process of applicant's invention.

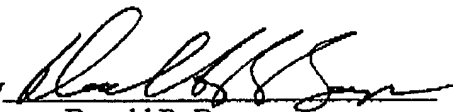
In view of the above amendments, arguments, and remarks it is clear that the reference of Burson fails to suggest the limitations of applicant's claims, as amended and added. It is therefore respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, the claims be allowed, and that this case be passed quickly to issue.

If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this amendment, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

Respectfully Submitted,

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by



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